



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction



# Drug Market and Crime

## GERMANY

2020 Report of the national  
REITOX Focal Point to the EMCDDA  
(Data year 2019/2020)

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Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium  
für Gesundheit

aufgrund eines Beschlusses  
des Deutschen Bundestages

## CONTENTS

|          |   |           |
|----------|---|-----------|
| <b>0</b> | <b>SUMMARY (T0)</b> .....   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>1</b> | <b>NATIONAL PROFILE (T1)</b> .....  | <b>5</b>  |
| 1.1      | The drug market (T1.1) .....  | 5         |
| 1.1.1    | Domestic production (T1.1.1) .....  | 5         |
| 1.1.2    | Wholesale drug and precursor market (T1.1.4) .....  | 8         |
| 1.1.3    | Retail drug and precursor market (T1.1.5).....  | 9         |
| 1.2      | Drug related crime (T1.2) .....   | 13        |
| 1.2.1    | Drug law offences (T1.2.1) .....  | 13        |
| 1.2.2    | Drug related crime outside of drug law offences (T1.2.2) .....  | 16        |
| 1.3      | Drug supply reduction activities (T1.3) .....   | 17        |
| 1.3.1    | Drug supply reduction activities (T1.3.1) .....   | 17        |
| <b>2</b> | <b>TRENDS (T2)</b> .....  | <b>18</b> |
| 2.1      | Short and long term trends in the drug market (T2.1) .....  | 18        |
| 2.2      | Trends in other drug market data (T2.2).....  | 24        |
| 2.3      | Short and long term trends in drug law offences (T2.3) .....  | 24        |
| 2.3.1    | Dealing/trafficking offences .....  | 26        |
| 2.3.2    | Consumption-related offences .....  | 27        |
| 2.3.3    | Users of hard drugs who have come to the attention of law enforcement for the first time (EKHD) ..... | 29        |
| 2.3.4    | Convictions under the BtMG .....  | 29        |
| 2.4      | Trends in other drug related crime data (T2.4) .....  | 31        |
| <b>3</b> | <b>NEW DEVELOPMENTS (T3)</b> .....  | <b>32</b> |
| 3.1      | New developments (T3.1) .....   | 32        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (T4)</b> .....  | <b>33</b> |
| 4.1      | Additional sources of information (T4.1) .....  | 33        |
| <b>5</b> | <b>SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY (T5)</b> .....   | <b>34</b> |
| 5.1      | Sources (T5.1) .....  | 34        |

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5.2 Methodology (T5.2).....34

**6 TABLES .....36**

**7 FIGURES.....36**

In addition to the above mentioned authors of the Drug Market and Crime workbook, other experts have also contributed to the preparation of the annual report. These experts serve as contact persons for the DBDD and contribute, by writing texts and giving feedback on draft versions of the individual sections, to the creation of the workbook:

German Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt, BKA), Serious Crime Division (Abteilung SO, Schwere und Organisierte Kriminalität) and the Forensic Science Institute (Kriminaltechnisches Institut, KT)

## 0 SUMMARY (T0)

### Seizures

Due to the switch to a new police data system and the recording or surveying of drug-related facts, reliable figures on cases of narcotics seizures, total seizure quantities of individual types of drugs and cannabis plantations seized cannot be presented this year. In addition, in relation to cases of drug-related deaths, no information is possible beyond the pure number of deaths and causes of death. Information on the number of hard drug users coming to the attention of law enforcement for the first time is not available, as was the case in the previous year.

The most recent data available on cases of drug seizures, total seizure quantities of individual types of narcotics and cannabis plantations seized are presented in the 2018 Drug Market and Crime workbook (Schneider et al., 2018). In the current 2020 Drug Market and Crime workbook, this data is therefore missing.

In 2019, 31 illegal narcotics laboratories were seized in Germany (2018: 19 laboratories, +63.2%).

### Active substance and prices

Compared to the previous year, average street-level dealing prices have fallen for crack (-23.9%), amphetamine (-15.9%), crystal meth (-7.4%), herbal cannabis (-2.9%) and cocaine (-1.1%). As the figure for crack from 2019 is only based on the data supplied by fewer than five *Laender*, however, this should be interpreted with caution. The largest increase was seen with heroin (+16.6%). There were also increases for ecstasy (+12.7%), cannabis resin (+3.4%) and mushrooms (+1.2%). There was no change in the street-level dealing price of LSD.

At street-level dealing, a significant increase can be seen in the purity of cocaine between 2011 and 2017. At the beginning of that period, cocaine came onto the market with a median purity level of 37.6%. This has almost doubled since then, reaching a peak of 78.4% in 2017. In 2018, the purity of cocaine fell for the first time, albeit only slightly to 77.0%. The slight decrease in the purity level also continued in 2019, when it fell to 76.4%. In contrast, heroin reached a new peak of 25.8% in 2019.

### Criminal offences

The total number of violations of the German Narcotic Drugs Act (Betäubungsmittelgesetz, BtMG) have continued to rise since 2012, reaching 359,747 cases in 2019. According to the police crime statistics (Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik, PKS), there were 1,598 cases of direct economic compulsive crime in 2019, which is the lowest level since data collection began in 2004.

Among dealing/trafficking, smuggling and importing offences, cannabis has constantly played the largest role in recent years (59%; 2019: 31,474 offences). In 2019, 611 cases of NPS dealing/trafficking offences were recorded, which is an increase of +108.5%.

The 2019 PKS shows that cannabis also plays a predominant role in the case of consumption-related offences. Cannabis continues to account for the largest proportion of consumption-related offences (65.5%), with an increase of 3.8% on the previous year.

## **Convictions**

Following hardly any change in 2014 (47,502 convictions) and 2015 (47,380 convictions) and an increase in 2016 (48,983 convictions) and 2017 (51,073 convictions) the total number of persons convicted under the BtMG in 2018 once again increased, to 54,735.

## **Traffic accidents**

The total number of vehicle drivers under the influence of other intoxicating substances increased again (+99 cases), however, as in previous years, they continue to make up only 0.8% of all drivers involved in accidents.

# **1 NATIONAL PROFILE (T1)**

## **1.1 The drug market (T1.1)**

### **1.1.1 Domestic production (T1.1.1)**

#### **Cultivation of cannabis**

The most recent data on seizures of cannabis plantations and cannabis plants from 2017 can be found in the 2018 Drug Market and Crime workbook (Schneider et al., 2018).

The following information on trafficking routes for individual substances comes from BKA communications to the DBDD.

#### **Hashish**

The majority of the hashish seized in Germany continues to originate in Morocco, often brought into Germany through Spain, France and the Netherlands.

#### **Marijuana**

Marijuana generally originates from western European indoor cultivation (i.a. Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany) but also from outdoor cultivation in Albania.

Smuggling large quantities of marijuana from Albania to western Europe took place through Italy, Greece or the Balkan states (Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Bulgaria). In recent years, there have been increasing numbers of seizures of large shipments from Spain.

## Heroin

Isolated cases of major seizures of heroin have been recorded in Germany. Although the precise seizure quantity for 2019 cannot be stated, the information from the police implies a minimum total quantity of around one tonne, including one major seizure of 670 kg on its own. In addition, a shipment of 1.1 tonnes was seized in Kazakhstan in November 2019 which was destined for Germany. That seizure represented that largest ever seizure of heroin destined for Germany.

From this and the increase in quantities of heroin seized in Europe as a whole as well as the increase in dealing/trafficking offences in relation to heroin, one can deduce a wide available but also a corresponding demand for that drug in Germany and in Europe. Smuggling activities involving heroin came primarily from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran via the classic Balkan route. There were several major seizures of heroin in 2019 in European ports (Antwerp/Belgium, Felixstowe/Great Britain, Koper/Slovenia) which suggests that the “southern route” (Pakistan - East Africa - Europe or Iran - Europe (by ship)) is gaining in importance.

The major seizures of heroin along the “northern Black Sea route” (2019: 670 kg in Germany via Georgia, 1,100 kg in Kazakhstan bound for Germany) also lead one to assume an increasing importance of that transport route also.

## Cocaine

The trend in narcotics crime in connection with cocaine in Germany has been characterised for many years by a stark increase in the number of offences. This continued in 2019, with the figure of 4,460 cocaine dealing/trafficking offences a considerable increase on the previous year (+9.8%). The proportion of all narcotics dealing/trafficking offences accounted for by cocaine dealing/trafficking offences was approx. 8%.

Since 2017, seizure quantities have significantly grown in Germany. After record seizure quantities of around 8 tonnes in Germany in 2017, the total quantity seized in 2018 was at least 5 tonnes before rising to a new record level in 2019 of at least 10 tonnes.

Both of the most important cocaine delivery gateways into Europe remained, by some margin, the port cities of Antwerp/Belgium and Rotterdam/the Netherlands. From there, the cocaine was brought into Germany in smaller quantities. However, there were also several major seizures in German ports, especially Hamburg, in 2019.

The direct smuggling of cocaine into Europe mainly came from Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Columbia and Peru via sea containers. Smuggled quantities were generally in the hundreds of kilograms or in the single-digit tonnes. As far as the import into and the further distribution within Europe is concerned, in particular criminal groups from the Balkan states play a key role.

## **Amphetamine**

Amphetamine seized in Germany mostly originated from Dutch production. In the Netherlands, an increase in the production capacities of the illegal laboratories has been observed for a number of years.

## **Ecstasy**

Ecstasy tablets seized in Germany, for which evidence of origin could be established, originated almost exclusively from the Netherlands.

## **Crystal meth**

At least 211 kg of crystal meth was seized in Germany in 2019 (2018: 129 kg). Of that, approx. 115 kg was proven to have originated in the Netherlands. The centre of crystal meth production has moved from the Czech Republic to the Netherlands. In that country, the import of methamphetamine (partly in crystalline form, usually in powder form) from Mexico and the involvement of Mexican citizens in the production of crystal meth has been found. There are also indications of crystal meth increasingly being sent by post from Mexico to Germany.

## **NPS**

NPS have become established on the narcotics market over the past few years and now cover the entire spectrum of alternatives to the classic drugs.

The main country of origin for the pure active substances used in the production of ready-made NPS products (e.g. so-called herb mixtures, bath salts, plant fertiliser) is China. From there, active substances are sent to Europe by post. In European production facilities, including in the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Spain but also in Germany, these are further processed, packaged ready for use and primarily distributed via online shops and by post.

## **Narcotics dealing/trafficking via the internet/darknet**

One method of distribution of narcotics and NPS growing in significance is via the internet/darknet, since that offers users a simple and easily accessible possibility for acquiring drugs of all types and having them conveniently delivered by post to their homes.

On one darknet market place which was removed from the internet in 2019, over 40,000 offers of drugs were listed worldwide. In a global comparison, Germany was the third most commonly listed destination country, after the USA and Great Britain. The German sellers made total revenues of over 8 million euros. The most commonly sold drugs were cannabis, amphetamine, cocaine, ecstasy, psychedelics und MDMA and it was determined that there were over 76,000 drug sales and thus individual crimes from over 500 sellers.



## 1.1.2 Wholesale drug and precursor market (T1.1.4)

### Prices

At the end of 2002, the *Land* Criminal Police Offices (Landeskriminalämter, LKAs) and the BKA agreed on an expanded collection of information on domestic narcotics prices. Since then, in addition to the highest and lowest prices, the so-called "predominant market prices" at street and wholesale level have been recorded. Based on an agreement on data collection made at European level on the initiative of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the BKA has, since 2010, differentiated by trafficked/dealt quantity, from 0.5 to <1.5 kg (respectively 500 to <1,500 consumption units (CU)), 1.5 to <10 kg (1,500 to <10,000 CU) and 10 to <100 kg (10,000 to <100,000 CU). To ensure the collection of data on prices is as representative as possible, data is generally reported from four to six selected collection points across the *Laender* (by police offices in urban and rural areas) and then transferred to the respective LKA. The LKAs compile the data sent by the collection points and any further available information and report the current market prices of narcotics in their *Land* to the BKA once a year in a standardised table. Based on this data, the BKA calculates the average narcotics prices for Germany.

The drug prices arrived at in this way can only be taken as approximate values, particularly since differences in the purity of the drugs is not taken into account and the quality categories can be different. A further difficulty is the fact that prices are only known in connection with relatively few cases, meaning that random effects are able to influence the figures.

An overview of the prices of different drugs in the various quantity categories in Germany is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Prices of various drugs in small and large quantities (€/kg), 2019

|                        | 0.5 to < 1.5 kg or 500 to < 1,500 CU | 1.5 to < 10 kg or 1,500 to < 10,000 CU | 10 to < 100 kg or 10,000 to < 100,000 CU |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Heroin</b>          | 30,000                               | 23,000*                                | 14,000**                                 |
| <b>Cocaine</b>         | 41,900                               | 33,625*                                | 35,000**                                 |
| <b>Amphetamine</b>     | 3,196                                | 2,882                                  | --                                       |
| <b>Ecstasy/Tablets</b> | 2,893                                | 2,000**                                | --                                       |
| <b>Cannabis resin</b>  | 3,383                                | 2,533*                                 | 2,325*                                   |
| <b>Herbal cannabis</b> | 4,683                                | 4,386                                  | 5,762*                                   |
| <b>Crack</b>           | --                                   | --                                     | --                                       |
| <b>LSD/Trip</b>        | 1,850*                               | 1,450**                                | --                                       |
| <b>Crystal meth</b>    | 34,333*                              | --                                     | --                                       |
| <b>Raw opium</b>       | 6,500**                              | 4,500**                                | --                                       |

\* Mean value based on a very small basis of data (fewer than five *Laender*).

\*\* Value based on figures received from one *Land* only.

(BKA 2020, data delivery)

### 1.1.3 Retail drug and precursor market (T1.1.5)

The prices of various drugs at street-level dealing are provided annually through the BKA data delivery and can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2 Street-level prices of various drugs (€/g), 2019

| Heroin | Cocaine | Amphetamine | Ecstasy tablets | Cannabis resin | Herbal cannabis | Crack | LSD trip | Crystal meth | Mushrooms |
|--------|---------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| 51.3   | 69.5    | 9.5         | 8.0             | 9.2            | 9.9             | 37.5  | 10.0     | 77.8         | 8.6       |

\* Value based on figures received from one *Land* only.

(BKA 2020, data delivery)

### Purity

In addition to ascertaining prices, the BKA also investigates the purity of different drugs on the market. Samples taken from drug seizures serve as a basis for the analysis of purity and potency. For better comparability, the content of psychotropic ingredients are related to the chemical form of the base, irrespective of the form in which the substance is found in the illicit preparation. All figures given may only be interpreted as approximate values since large fluctuations in purity levels of the individual seizures can lead to marked random effects. As the distribution of values generally diverges from the normal distribution, median values are used instead of arithmetic means.

The purity levels are broken down into three areas, in line with the seized quantities: street level dealing (<1 g), retail (1 g to <1,000 g) and wholesale (≥1,000 g). Results are presented in a differentiated manner where a clear difference can be determined in purity at wholesale

and street dealing levels. The reason for this is that in most cases the substances are increasingly cut between the wholesale and street-dealing levels for profit maximisation purposes. In addition to data regarding purity, information on the most frequently found cutting agents is also reported. Insofar as these are pharmacologically active (e.g. caffeine), they are categorised as adulterants, otherwise they are categorised as diluents (e.g. sugar).

Trend data for heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and MDMA can be found in Figure 3 and Figure 4. Figure 5 shows the trends for cannabis.

### **Amphetamine**

On the illegal drug market, amphetamine is mostly traded in powder form. It appears only rarely as an ingredient in tablets.

In 2019, 3,999 data sets (2018: 3,778) for powder-form amphetamine were evaluated. The mean purity level has, with slight fluctuations, been between 12 and 15% since 2014. The median value for 2019 is 13.2% (2018: 13.9%). Over 70% of all examined samples exhibited amphetamine content levels below 20%.

The basis for the analysis in respect of cutting agents in amphetamine preparations was 3,528 data sets. The most dominant adulterant remains caffeine, with a frequency of 98%. As far as diluents are concerned, lactose (8%) stands out somewhat.

### **Methamphetamine**

For 2019, 796 data sets were reported (2018: 663). The median value for the active substance concentration increased for the first time since 2013, rising to 74.4% (2018: 65.6%).

Notable adulterants among the 238 data sets analysed were piracetam (4%) and caffeine (3%). Among diluents, methylsulfonylmethane dominates, accounting for a proportion of 92%. 2-phenethylamine (6%), glutamate/l-glutamate (3%), sucrose (2%) or magnesium sulphate (1%) were reported as further, less significant diluents.

### **Cocaine**

On the illegal drug market, cocaine is traded almost exclusively as cocaine hydrochloride. As in the previous year, only a very few cases of preparations containing cocaine base ("crack") were reported.

In 2019, 3,380 data sets were evaluated (2018: 3,196). Whilst the median values for street samples have slightly fallen since 2017, they are slowly increasing for the middle dealing levels. The average active substance content for the street samples was 76.4% (2018: 77.0%) and for the middle dealing level 77.7% (2018: 76.8%). The trend towards higher purity levels, which has been continuing since 2015 for wholesale quantities, reached a new peak for this category in 2019, at 81.6% (2018: 79.8%). Over 65% of all analysed samples exhibited an active substance content of over 70% cocaine.

Despite the median value for the category of >1,000 g having now risen slightly further, the purity levels for the values for the two lower weight categories have continuously converged over recent years. Cocaine is evidently far less commonly cut than even just 10 years ago.

As far as the adulterants in the 1,223 samples analysed for cutting agents (2018: 1,124), tetramisole/levamisole remains the most significant, with a frequency of 50%. That is followed, also unchanged, by phenacetin (25%), caffeine (19%), lidocaine (9%) and paracetamol (3%). The most commonly reported diluents were, once again, lactose (20%), mannitol (10%), inositol (3%) and creatine/creatinine (3%).

## **Heroin**

In 2019, 1,773 data sets were reported (2018: 1,581 data sets). At the wholesale level, the trend to higher purity levels, which has been observed since 2014, further continued. The median value rose considerably from 4% to 54.8%. The average heroin content ascertained for middle level dealing remained flat at 21.9% (2018: 21.8%), whilst for street level dealing the median value increased by a considerable 7.1% to a value of 25.8% for 2019.

The two categories which represent middle level dealing and street level dealing have similar median values as far as the long-term picture is concerned. In this context, the values for small quantities were also above the values for middle level dealing several times in recent years; it is apparent that the heroin is not further cut at that level.

The analysis of the cutting agents used reflected past data already known. In the 1,636 data sets analysed (2018: 1,459), the adulterants caffeine (99%) and paracetamol (99%) predominated.

## **Cannabis**

The active substance content of flowering tops, resin, herbal cannabis and cannabis concentrate are recorded and evaluated separately.

### Flowering tops

The findings were recorded in 11,059 data sets (2018: 10,571). The median content of Tetrahydrocannabinol1 slightly increased once more year on year to 13.7%; the moderate increase in THC content which has been observed since 2011 continued in 2019.

### Cannabis resin (hashish)

The analysis of the 3,426 data sets (2018: 3,080) for this cannabis product revealed an THC content of 22.6% and thus a very clear increase compared to the previous year's value of 16.7%. The increasing trend in the THC content of cannabis resin which has been observed since 2011 took a further upward turn; it is now 8.9% above the median value for flowering tops.

### Herbal cannabis (marijuana)

2,989 data sets were taken into account (2018: 3,522). The median value was 2.7% THC (2018: 2.6%). The THC content of marijuana has been slightly increasing since 2013, however in general it is persistently low.

### Cannabis concentrate<sup>1</sup>

For the 109 reported preparations (2018: 133), the median THC content was 49.3% (2018: 53.4%). This represented a further fall compared to the previous year.

## **MDMA**

MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine) is primarily distributed on the illegal drug market in two forms, which will be considered separately in the following:

### MDMA in tablet-form (ecstasy)<sup>2</sup>

In 1,384 data sets (2018: 1,236), the MDMA content of around a million tablets was reported. The median MDMA content per tablet continues to rise year after year, reaching a new peak level of 146 mg/tablet (2018: 137 mg). MDMA content levels in excess of 200 mg/tablet were reported for 131 data sets.

Almost parallel to this trend, the weight of the tablets and the percentage of the active substance in them has increased: while the median weight of a tablet in 2010 was still at 277 mg, by 2019 this had increased to 417 mg. The median MDMA content of the individual tablets increased over the same period from 22.7% to 35.3%; in this respect, however, there has been almost no increase since 2017. The most commonly mentioned tableting excipient is cellulose; adulterants, including caffeine, occur in isolated cases.

### MDMA in crystalline form<sup>3</sup>

633 data sets were evaluated for 2019. The median value is 77.8%, a value which has remained almost constant for several years. In almost 90% of all preparations, the active substance content was over 70% MDMA-base. MDMA in crystalline form is predominantly dealt in uncut form on the illegal drug market.

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<sup>1</sup> Cannabis concentrate is an umbrella term for preparations for which the THC content has, by way of an enrichment process (extraction using a solvent), been increased (e.g. dabbing, honey bee extraction, hashish oil).

<sup>2</sup> Only a small number of active substance levels for tablets with other psychotropic substances were reported. Due to their low level of significance, these values have not been taken into account in the evaluation.

<sup>3</sup> Due to its increasing significance, crystalline MDMA has been included in the evaluation.

## 1.2 Drug related crime (T1.2)

### 1.2.1 Drug law offences (T1.2.1)

Since, in addition to purchasing and dealing/trafficking, the possession of illicit drugs is also prohibited under the law, criminal sanctions are some of the more common adverse effects associated with drug use. The BKA, in its statistical report on drug-related offences, distinguishes between criminal acts in connection with violations of the BtMG (narcotics offences) and cases of direct economic compulsive crime. The former are recorded according to the following three categories of offence:

- General violations under Sec. 29 BtMG (especially possession, purchase and supply, so-called consumption-related offences).
- Dealing/trafficking offences, which cover: illegal dealing/trafficking in and smuggling of narcotics as per Sec. 29 BtMG as well as the illegal import of narcotics in non-small quantities as per Sec. 30 BtMG,
- Other violations of the BtMG<sup>4</sup>.

In 2019 a total of 359,747 narcotics offences were recorded in Germany, of which 284,603 were general offences against the BtMG, 51,845 were dealing/trafficking and smuggling offences as per Sec. 29 BtMG, 1,530 cases of importing "non-small quantities" as per Sec. 30 BtMG and 21,378 other violations of the BtMG (Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), 2020).

#### **Consumption-related offences/general offences under Sec. 29 BtMG**

The term "consumption-related offences" is used to describe general violations of the BtMG. These consist of offences under Sec. 29 BtMG, meaning the possession, purchase and supply of narcotic drugs and similar offences.

The PKS 2019 (Bundesministerium des Inneren (BMI), 2020)

#### **Dealing/trafficking offences**

The term "dealing/trafficking offences" encompasses all offences of illegal trading in and smuggling of intoxicants as per Sec. 29 BtMG, as well as offences of illegal import of narcotics as per Sec. 30 (1) No. 4 BtMG.

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<sup>4</sup> Other violations covers the illegal cultivation of narcotics (Sec. 29 (1) No. 1 BtMG); cultivation of, manufacture of and dealing/trafficking in narcotics as a member of a gang (Sec. 30 (1) No. 1, Sec. 30a BtMG); making available financial means or similar assets (Sec. 29 (1) No. 13 BtMG); promotion of narcotics (Sec. 29 (1) No. 8 BtMG); supplying, administering or providing narcotics to minors (Sec. 29a (1) No. 1, and possibly Sec. 30 (1) No. 2 BtMG); negligently causing the death of another by supplying, administering or providing narcotics for direct use (Sec. 30 (1) No. 3 BtMG); illegal prescription and administering by doctors in breach of Sec. 13 BtMG (Sec. 29 (1) No. 6 BtMG) and illegal dealing/trafficking in or manufacturing, supplying, possessing narcotics in non-small quantities (Sec. 29a (1) No. 2 BtMG).

Cannabis was predominant in dealing/trafficking offences (31,474 offences, 59% of the total of 53,375 dealing/trafficking, smuggling and importing offences), followed by, at some distance, (meth)amphetamine 5,607 offences ((10.5%); of which methamphetamine: 1,812 offences). 4,692 offences were reported for cocaine (including crack) (8.8%), 2,772 for ecstasy (5.2%), followed by 2,329 offences for heroin (4.4%). NPS (611 offences, 1.1%) and LSD (245 offences, 0.5%) were the two substances among dealing/trafficking offences which had the lowest values, at less than one percent (Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), 2020).

### **Economic compulsive crime**

Direct economic compulsive crime is understood to refer to all criminal offences committed in order to obtain narcotic drugs, substitutes or alternative substances. It is primarily significant in relation to theft and robbery. More frequently, however, there is indirect economic compulsive crime, for the purpose of obtaining money or valuables to finance the subsequent purchase of narcotic drugs. Indirect economic compulsive crime is not recorded in the PKS. Recognising and recording direct economic compulsive crime are very difficult and incomplete, as the drug addiction is not always recognised.

According to the PKS, there were 1,598 (2018: 1,658 cases; -3.6%) cases of direct economic compulsive crime in 2019. The competent official body is responsible for collecting the data and assessing whether the offence in question falls under direct economic compulsive crime. That body reaches its conclusion in this regard on the basis of investigation findings, which includes direct questioning/interviewing. Unexplained burglaries can also be recorded as economic compulsive crimes if the facts are obvious (Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), 2020).

### **Violations of the NpSG**

391 violations of the NpSG were recorded in the PKS in 2019. In 2018, 361 violations were recorded, meaning that there was an increase of 8.3% between 2018 and 2019.

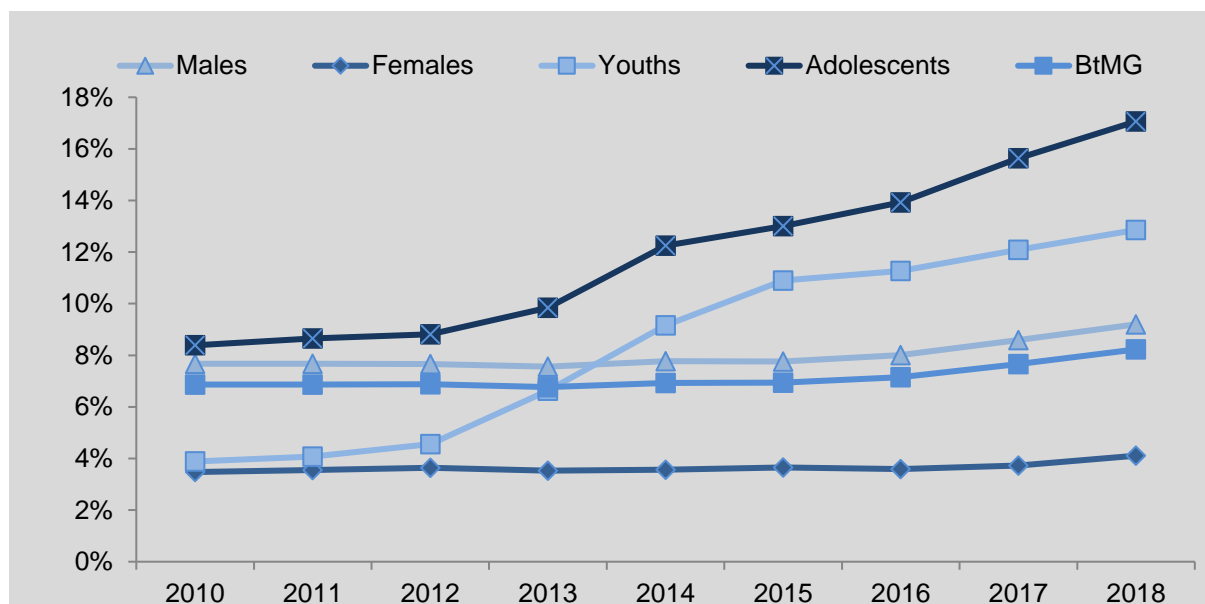
### **Convictions under the BtMG**

Data for 2019 on convictions under the BtMG is not yet available. According to the criminal prosecution statistics of the German Federal Statistical Office (Statistisches Bundesamt, Destatis) (Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2020a) 64,350 persons were convicted in 2018 under the BtMG. Of those, 1,321 were convicted for illegal import under Sec. 30 (1) No. 4 and 6,771 under Sec. 29a (1) No. 2 as well as 54,008 for other violations under Sec. 29 (1).

54,735 judgments were issued under general (adult) criminal law and 9,615 under criminal law relating to young offenders. As far as judgments issued under general criminal law are concerned, 13,966 custodial sentences were handed down – of which 9,243 were suspended sentences - and 40,769 fines were imposed.

8.2% of all convicted persons were convicted in 2018 on the basis of violations of the BtMG. As such, the percentage share increased slightly compared to recent years (Figure 1), whereby the proportion among men, at 9.2%, is more than twice that among women, at

4.1%. Amongst adolescents, the proportion of convictions due to violations of the BtMG amounted to 12.9% of all convictions. This represents a continuous increase of the proportion of adolescents convicted under the BtMG since 2010 (2010: 3.9%). The proportion of convictions related to narcotics offences was also higher among young adults between 18 and 21 years of age, at 17.1%, than it was in the previous year (15.6%), thus continuing its increasing trend from previous years. As a result, narcotics offences committed by this age group have an above-average, and growing, share of overall crime.



(Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2019)

Figure 1 Proportion of convictions for narcotics among different groups of offenders 2010-2018

More than nine times more men than women were convicted for narcotics offences in 2018 (males: 47,160; females 4,977). The Hamburg basic documentation system in the area of addiction (BADO) (Martens et al., 2019) sheds light on how many clients of Hamburg addiction support already had problems with the criminal justice system.

At the time of the most recent documentation, 53% opioid clients reported current problems with the criminal justice authorities (women: 64%, men: 49%). More than three quarters (77%) of opioid clients had received at least one conviction at some point in their lives, however. The underlying offences were often connected to the addiction disorder. 61% reported having been convicted due to violations of the BtMG with the figure higher for men (64%) than for women (51%). 52% had had to go to court for economic compulsive crimes, with the figure for male clients (55.5%) once more higher than for female clients (41%). Physical assault offences, which accounted for 26% of convictions, were committed twice as frequently by male as female opioid clients (men: 30%, women: 13%). 67% of the opioid clients reported having been to prison at least once in their lives (men: 54%, women: 72%). On average, these people had spent 58 months of their life in correctional institutions with men spending much longer (64 months on average) than women (34 months on average).



Roughly a third (31%) of persons being treated for cannabis use currently has problems with the criminal justice authorities (women: 8%, men: 36%). 9% of the cannabis clientele had already received criminal convictions at some point in their lives for narcotics offences and 6% for economic compulsive crime. A similar proportion of clients (9%) had been convicted at least once of bodily harm offences. Almost one fifth (19%) of male clients and 3% of female clients reported having spent time in detention (total: 16%).

### 1.2.2 Drug related crime outside of drug law offences (T1.2.2)

#### Drug use and road accidents

Since 2003, the German Federal Statistical Office has also provided annual figures in its Report on Road Accidents (Verkehrsunfallbericht) on whether operators of motor vehicles involved in accidents were under the influence of intoxicating substances other than alcohol (Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2020b). Since 1998, driving while under the influence of drugs has been categorised as a regulatory offence<sup>5</sup>. This applies even if a lack of fitness to drive cannot be proven. According to case law, the recommendations of the so-called Commission on Legal Limits (Grenzwertkommission) can serve as a starting point for the thresholds of each substance. These are 1 ng/ml for THC, 10 ng/ml for morphine, 75 ng/ml for BZE, 25 ng/ml for ecstasy, 25 ng/ml for MDE and 25 ng/ml for amphetamine (Burhoff, 2006).

In 2018, there were a total of 300,006 police-registered accidents on German roads with injury to persons, with 369,050 car drivers involved.

In 2019, a slight rise of 0.2% was reported, to 13,475 cases (2018: 13,447 cases) (Table 6). This accounted for 3.8% of all accidents with injury to persons and thus a slightly smaller proportion than in the previous year (2018: 4.4%) (Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2020b). However, as there are considerable difficulties in detecting drug use as compared to alcohol consumption, one still has to assume that drug-related cases are still hugely under-reported.

The police needs reliable and rapid methods in order to be able to carry out drug screening tests quickly at the roadside on drivers who are suspected of being under the influence of drugs (Musshoff et al., 2014). Although oral fluids may be suitable for testing drivers under the influence of drugs at the roadside, the testing equipment for oral fluids is still not yet sensitive enough (for example for methamphetamine and benzodiazepine) and too unspecific (for THC). The poor assessments of benzodiazepine tests could be due, among other things, to the low number of positive test results. Although the sensitivity of the test procedures for THC is somewhat higher than is described in the literature, the test specificity (of <90%) still leaves a lot to be desired. Furthermore, the specificity of the tests suffers from reduced thresholds which lead to many false positive test results.

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<sup>5</sup> A list of the relevant substances can be found at: <http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/stvg/anlage.html> [accessed: 22 Aug. 2019].

## **Crime experienced by drug users themselves**

The 2018 Hamburg BADO shows a proportion of 62.5% of new clients who have already had experience with physical violence (Martens et al., 2019). As for experience of sexual violence, the proportion was 22.5%.

Comparing the different substance groups, one finds that clients who have sought help from the Hamburg outpatient addiction support system for opiate-related problems are particularly affected in this respect. Overall, 28% of clients with opioid problems stated in the current reporting year (2018) that they had been victims of sexual abuse or sexual violence with women far more affected than men (72% and 11% respectively). Three quarters of opioid clients have already experienced physical violence at least once in their lives. Women were, once again, more frequently impacted (85%) than men (71%) in this regard.

Just over half (53%) of cannabis clients has experienced physical violence at some point in their lives. In this regard, women (60%) were more often impacted than men (51%). Larger differences between the genders could be seen in the category of experience of sexual violence: 45% of women had been a victim of sexual violence whilst 9% of men reported having had experience of sexual violence. Over three quarters of clients (78%) reported that they had experienced seriously damaging events in their life (women: 85%, men: 76%). The exercise of violence against others was documented for a total of 37% of people in care (women: 21%, men: 41%) (Martens et al., 2019).

### **1.3 Drug supply reduction activities (T1.3)**

#### **1.3.1 Drug supply reduction activities (T1.3.1)**

Drug related crime within the meaning of the police rules encompasses all crimes in connection with the abuse of substances and preparations which are subject to the BtMG, of other medicinal drugs or other substances which are used as substitute/alternative substances by narcotics users (violation of German Medicinal Products Act, Arzneimittelgesetz, AMG), the illegal handling of base materials under the German Precursors Monitoring Act (Grundstoffüberwachungsgesetz, GÜG), as well as of NPS as per the NpSG, and direct economic compulsive crime (offences committed for the direct purpose of obtaining narcotics or substitutes/alternative substances).

The key objectives for the police in combating narcotics are, in particular:

- Prevention of the illegal cultivation or illegal manufacture of narcotics,
- Prevention of the import, transit and export of narcotics,
- Disruption of international, organised narcotics trade
- Extensive seizures of illicit drugs,
- Confiscation of the illegal profits from narcotics trafficking.

As such, the police focus on repressive tasks. At the same time, the police make considerable efforts within their sphere of responsibility in the area of prevention, with numerous and diverse informational and educational projects.

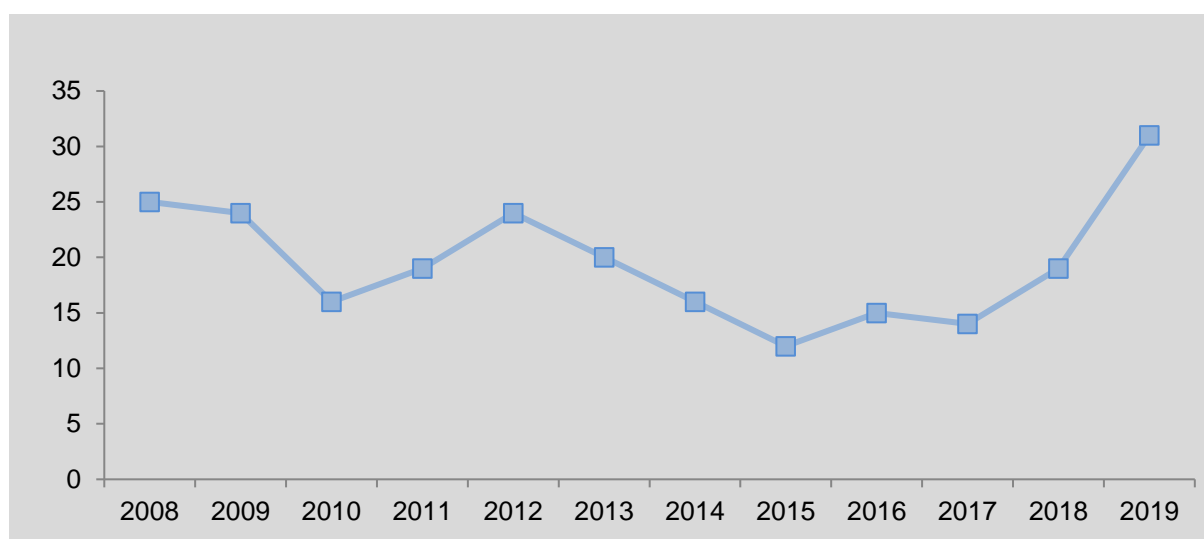
## 2 TRENDS (T2)

### 2.1 Short and long term trends in the drug market (T2.1)

Indicators of the situation on the illicit drug market are, in addition to the perceived availability and supply of illicit substances, also the number and size of seizures, prices and potency or purity of the substances. In order to obtain a real understanding of new drugs, their structure and effects, considerable effort and expense in the form of chemical analyses is necessary. Such analyses are carried out, for example, by the German Forensic Science Institute (Kriminaltechnisches Institut, KT 45) of the BKA. Information on seizures is generally also available from the BKA or from the LKAs. As already outlined above, however, much of the seizure data for 2019 is not available. Due to the switch to a new police data system and the recording or surveying of drug-related facts, reliable figures on cases of narcotics seizures, total seizure quantities of individual types of drugs and cannabis plantations seized cannot be presented this year. In addition, in relation to cases of drug-related deaths, no information is possible, beyond the pure number of deaths and the causes of death. Information on the number of hard drug users coming to the attention of law enforcement for the first time is not available, as was the case in the previous year.

#### Narcotics laboratories

Figure 2 shows the number of narcotics laboratories seized since 2007, which continuously fell between 2012 and 2015, before rising again since then. In 2019, the number of seized narcotics laboratories reach a new peak, at a total of 31.



(BKA 2020, data delivery)

Figure 2 Number of seized narcotics laboratories 2010-2019

In 2019, 31 illegal narcotics laboratories were seized in Germany (2018: 19 laboratories, +63%). This broke down into 15 production sites for amphetamine, 13 for methamphetamine, one MDA laboratory and 2 GHB laboratories. As in previous years, the majority of laboratories seized only had capacities to cover their own needs, or to supply customers/recipients limited to the immediate area.

In addition, 14 conversion laboratories for amphetamine were seized in Germany in 2019 (2018: 8), one tableting facility for amphetamine (2018: 1) and five processing facilities for NPS (2018: 1), of which one had its own mass production capability.

In 2018, two professional large-scale laboratories were seized in Germany in the German-Dutch border region. In 2019 another highly professional, large-scale laboratory for the production of amphetamine was seized close to the Dutch border. As such, the movement of production capacities from the Netherlands to Germany continued to an extent.

In addition, a large conversion laboratory (for the manufacture of amphetamine from amphetamine oil) with a tableting facility (manufacture of ecstasy tablets) and amphetamine production was seized.

The two seized GHB laboratories, the first to be seized since 2014, were small-scale facilities which was clearly converting gamma-butyrolactone (GBL) using sodium hydroxide into GHB for personal use or small scale local dealing.

The significantly increased number of “conversion laboratories” also suggests that criminal groups could apparently make more profit by acquiring liquid amphetamine in the Netherlands and then upgrading it, through a simple process, to consumable amphetamine in Germany than by purchasing the finished narcotic.

### **Narcotics prices**

After an international expert group, overseen by the EMCDDA, initiated a harmonisation of the data collection procedures for wholesale drug prices in Europe, wholesale quantities have, since 2011, been divided into the weight categories of 0.5 to <1.5 kg (or respectively 500 to <1,500 consumption units, CU), 1.5 to <10 kg (1,500 to <10,000 CU) and 10 kg to <100 kg (10,000 to <100,000 CU) and then larger quantities, with this system also implemented by the BKA (see also section 0). Thus, it has been possible to compare data since 2011.

A long term comparison (2010-2019) shows that the price of heroin at street dealing level has increased the most (+39%), followed by cannabis resin (+35.3%), herbal cannabis (+25.3%), ecstasy (+21.2%), LSD (+19.1%), cocaine (+11.4%) and crystal meth (+9.1%). Only the street dealing prices of crack (-35.7%) and amphetamine (-95%) have fallen, although this must be interpreted with caution as it is based on small amounts of data.

Compared to the previous year, street-level dealing prices have fallen for crack (-23.9%), amphetamine (-15.9%), crystal meth (-7.4%), herbal cannabis (-2.9%) and cocaine (-1.1%). However, as the figure for crack from 2019 is only based on the data supplied by fewer than five *Laender*, this should be interpreted with caution. There was no change in the street-level

dealing price of LSD. The largest increase was seen with heroin (+16.6%). There were also increases for ecstasy (+12.7%), cannabis resin (+3.4%) and mushrooms (+1.2%) (Table 3).

Table 3 Trend in average narcotics prices at street-level dealing (€/g)

|              | Heroin | Co-caine | Crack  | Ecstasy | Amphetamine | Herbal cannabis | Cannabis resin | LSD   | Crystal meth | Mushrooms |
|--------------|--------|----------|--------|---------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|--------------|-----------|
| 2010         | 36.2   | 65.6     | 49.5   | 6.6     | 12.5        | 8.7             | 7.1            | 9     | 67.3         | --        |
| 2011         | 42.4   | 65.7     | 58.5   | 6.6     | 13.1        | 8.9             | 7.2            | 9.8   | 78.7         | --        |
| 2012         | 42.9   | 64.9     | --     | 7.0     | 14.2        | 9.1             | 7.5            | 10.9  | 75.3         | --        |
| 2013         | 49.1   | 68.7     | 77.5** | 7.9     | 11.6        | 9.4             | 8.0            | 10.5  | 79.6         | --        |
| 2014         | 43.5   | 76.1     | 125*   | 7.7     | 13.1        | 9.2             | 8.1            | 9.2   | 90.7         | --        |
| 2015         | 50.2   | 73.8     | 68.3** | 7.6     | 12.4        | 10.1            | 8.2            | 9.3   | 95           | --        |
| 2016         | 47.5   | 75.8     | 83.3** | 7.8     | 11.8        | 10.0            | 8.6            | 9.3   | 87.3         | --        |
| 2017         | 42.6   | 71.6     | 73.3** | 7.7     | 11.9        | 10.0            | 9.4            | 9.5   | 78.0         | 9.9       |
| 2018         | 44.0   | 70.3     | 49.3*  | 7.1     | 11.3        | 10.2            | 8.9            | 10.0  | 84.0         | 8.5       |
| 2019         | 51.3   | 69.5     | 37.5   | 8.0     | 9.5         | 9.9             | 9.2            | 10.0  | 77.8         | 8.6       |
| 2010-2019*** | 39.0%  | 11.4%    | -35.7% | 21.2%   | -9.5%       | 25.3%           | 35.3%          | 19.0% | 9.1%         | --        |
| 2018-2019*** | 16.6%  | -1.1%    | -23.9% | 12.7%   | -15.9%      | -2.9%           | 3.4%           | 0.0%  | -7.4%        | 1.2%      |

\* Mean value based on a very small basis of data (fewer than five *Laender*).

\*\* Value based on figures received from one *Land* only.

\*\*\* Percentage change.

(BKA 2020, data delivery)

Between 2013 and 2019 narcotic drug prices increased at wholesale level (weight category 0.5 to <1.5 kg) for cocaine (+14.8%), cannabis resin (+9.6%), ecstasy (+8.6%) and crystal meth (+8.2%). In contrast, the prices of amphetamine (-19.0%), heroin (-3.0%) and herbal cannabis (-0.4%) fell compared to five years ago. The largest change in price in comparison to 2018 was for cannabis resin (+10.2%). Prices for ecstasy (+7.7%), heroin (+7.1 %) and crystal meth (+5.1 %) have also risen since 2018. In contrast, wholesale prices for amphetamine (-8.8 %), herbal cannabis (-7.2 %), crystal meth (+4.5 %) and cocaine (-3.0 %) fell compared to their 2018 levels.

Table 4 Trend in average wholesale narcotics prices (€/kg) (0.5 to <1.5 kg or 500 to <1,500 CU)

|           | Heroin | Cocaine | Crack | Ecstasy | Amphetamine | Herbal cannabis | Cannabis resin | LSD     | Crystal meth |
|-----------|--------|---------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------|--------------|
| 2013      | 30,917 | 36,500  | --    | 2,664   | 3,944       | 4,700           | 3,088          | --      | 31,733**     |
| 2014      | 26,965 | 37,891  | --    | 2,780   | 3,854       | 4,732           | 3,296          | --      | 31,250*      |
| 2015      | 33,250 | 42,820  | --    | 2,842   | 3,547       | 5,485           | 3,630          | --      | 33,333       |
| 2016      | 30,500 | 42,380  | --    | 2,961   | 3,188       | 5,122           | 3,110          | --      | 33,938*      |
| 2017      | 31,750 | 41,727  | --    | 2,868   | 4,443       | 4,599           | 2,775          | --      | 31,250*      |
| 2018      | 28,000 | 43,188  | --    | 2,687   | 3,505       | 5,046           | 3,068          | --      | 32,667*      |
| 2019      | 30,000 | 41,900  | --    | 2,893   | 3,196       | 4,683           | 3,383          | 1,850** | 34,333**     |
| 2013-2019 | -3.0%  | 14.8%   |       | 8.6%    | -19.0%      | -0.4%           | 9.6%           |         | 8.2%         |
| 2018-2019 | 7.1%   | -3.0%   |       | 7.7%    | -8.8%       | -7.2%           | 10.2%          |         | 5.1%         |

\* Value based on figures received from one *Land* only.

(BKA 2020, data delivery)

Table 5 Trend in average wholesale narcotics prices (€/kg) (1.5 to <10 kg or 1,500 to <10,000 CU)

|           | Heroin   | Cocaine  | Crack   | Ecstasy | Amphetamine | Herbal cannabis | Cannabis resin | LSD | Crystal meth |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-----|--------------|
| 2013      | 21,250** | 35,250** | 2,500** | 1,567*  | 2,500*      | 3,700           | 2,650          | --  | --           |
| 2014      | 22,500** | 38,093** | --      | 2,601*  | 2,906*      | 4,815           | 2,500*         | --  | --           |
| 2015      | 19,000** | 37,500** | --      | 1,783*  | 2,422       | 4,529           | 2,488*         | --  | --           |
| 2016      | 20,000** | 35,000*  | --      | 2,300*  | 3,558       | 4,067           | 3,400          | --  | 40,000**     |
| 2017      | 20,000** | 38,333*  | --      | 1,950*  | 2,270       | 3,936           | 3,688*         | --  | --           |
| 2018      | 21,500*  | 27,000** | --      | 1,625*  | 2,575*      | 4,225           | 4,333*         | --  | --           |
| 2019      | 21,500*  | 27,000** | --      | 1,625*  | 2,575*      | 4,225           | 4,333*         | --  | --           |
| 2013-2019 | -8.2%    | 4.6%     |         | -27.6%  | -15.3%      | -18.5%          | 4.4%           |     |              |
| 2018-2019 | 7.0%     | 24.5%    |         | 23.1%   | 11.9%       | 3.8%            | -41.5%         |     |              |

\* Value based on figures received from one *Land* only.

\*\* Mean value based on a very small basis of data (fewer than five *Laender*).

(BKA 2020, data delivery)

At wholesale level, involving quantities greater than 1.5kg, (Table 5) the largest price decrease compared to 2018 was recorded for cannabis resin (-41.5%). Price rises in 2019 were recorded for cocaine (+24.5%), ecstasy (+23.1%), amphetamine (+11.9%), heroin (+7.50%) and herbal cannabis (+3.8 %). As far as the five-year trend is concerned, the prices of cocaine (+4.6%) and cannabis resin (+4.4%) increased. The prices for ecstasy (-27.6%), herbal cannabis (-18.5%), amphetamines (-15.3%) and heroin (-8.2%) fell.

As the values, aside from those for herbal cannabis, were provided from fewer than five *Laender* - the cocaine values are even only taken from one *Land* - they must be interpreted with caution.

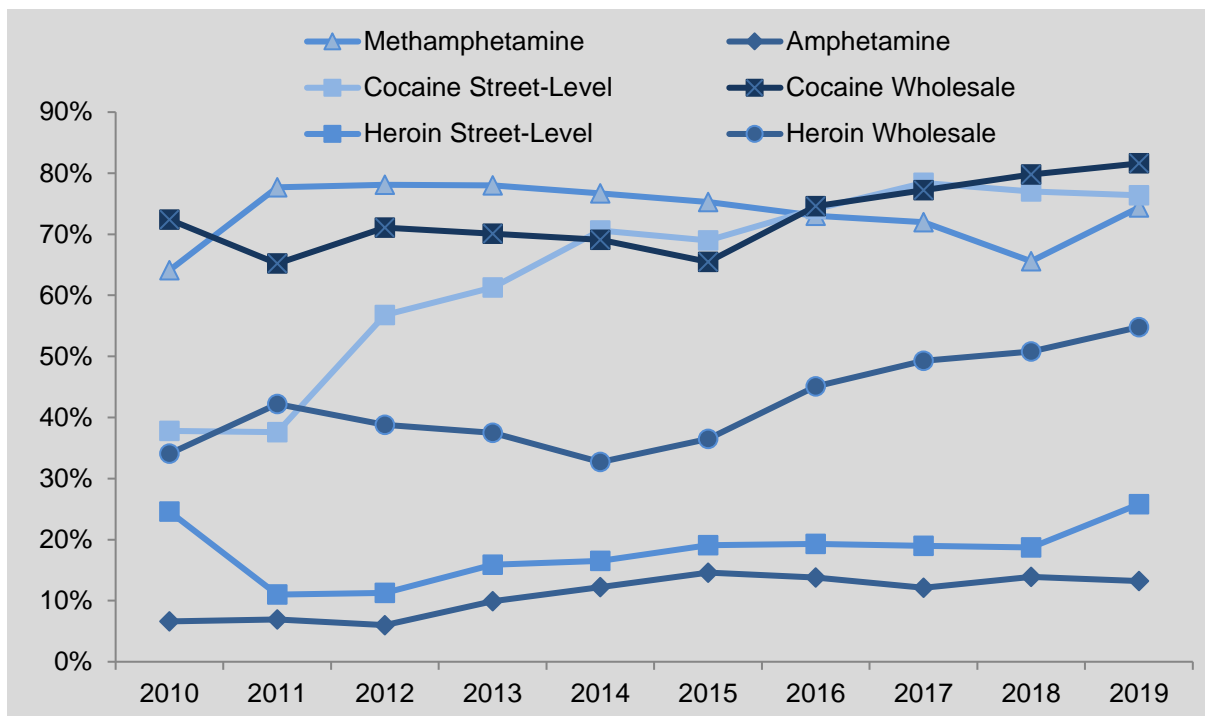
## Purity

### ***Heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and MDMA***

Figure 3 provides an overview of the trend in purity levels for heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and methamphetamine since 2010. Figure 4 shows the trend in MDMA purity since 2010. The purity of amphetamine has fallen again slightly, to 13.2%, following a rise in 2018. In contrast, the purity of methamphetamine has risen again, to 74.4% in 2019 after a decline in 2018.

At street-level dealing, a significant increase can be seen in the purity of cocaine between 2011 and 2017. At the beginning of that period, cocaine came onto the market with a median purity level of 37.6%. This has almost doubled since then, reaching a peak of 78.4% in 2017. In 2018, the purity of cocaine fell for the first time, albeit only slightly to 77.0%. The slight decrease in the purity level also continued in 2019, when it fell to 76.4%. In contrast, a new high of 25.8% was reached in 2019, bringing it to a similarly high level to that of 2010 (24.6%).

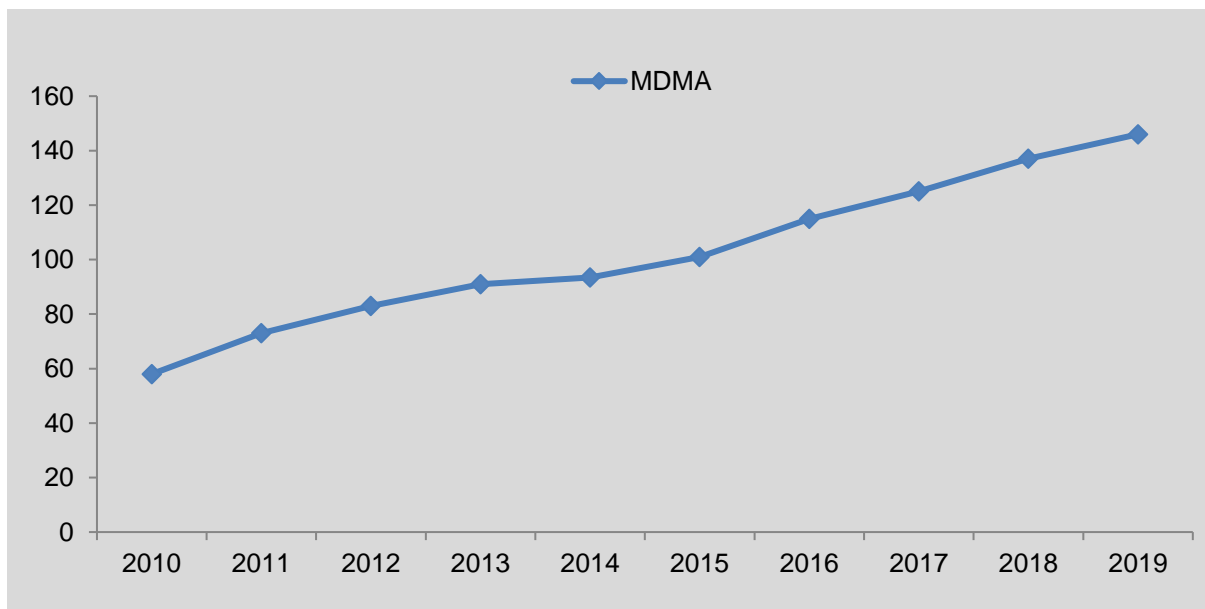
The purity levels of cocaine and heroin at wholesale level have steadily increased in recent years. 2019 also saw a further increase in both: for cocaine, the purity increased to 81.6%, while for heroin it increased to 54.8%. Unusually, in recent years (2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017) cocaine has appeared to possess a higher level of purity at street-level dealing than at wholesale level or, as in 2018, the active substance content has been very similar. This is due to the fact that cocaine is ever more frequently entering street-level dealing without further cutting agents added.



(BKA 2020, data delivery)

Figure 3 Purity of heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and methamphetamine 2010-2019 in per cent

The mean MDMA content per tablet has been increasing from year to year since 2009. This trend also continued in 2019, reaching a new peak at 146 mg/tablet (2018: 137 mg/tablet) (Figure 4).



(BKA 2020, data delivery)

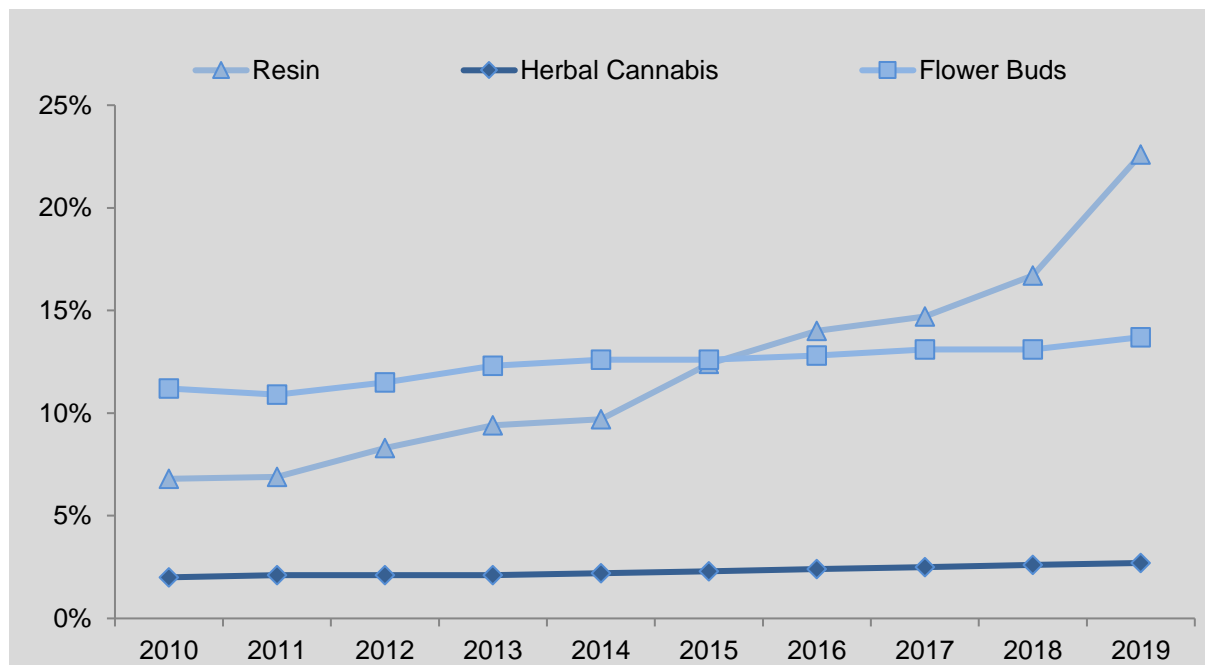
Figure 4 Purity of MDMA 2010-2019 in mg/tablet

**Cannabis**

The active substance content of flowering tops has continuously increased since 2011 (10.9%) and currently stands at 13.7%. Since 2010 (6.8%), the average potency of seized



resin has also been increasing, to its current peak of 22.6%. Thus, it can be seen that cannabis resin has been, since 2016, more potent than the flowering tops of the cannabis plant (Figure 5). Up until then, the opposite had been the case since records began in 1997. The comparably low THC content of herbal cannabis has remained more or less constant, standing at 2.6% in 2019.



(BKA 2020, data delivery)

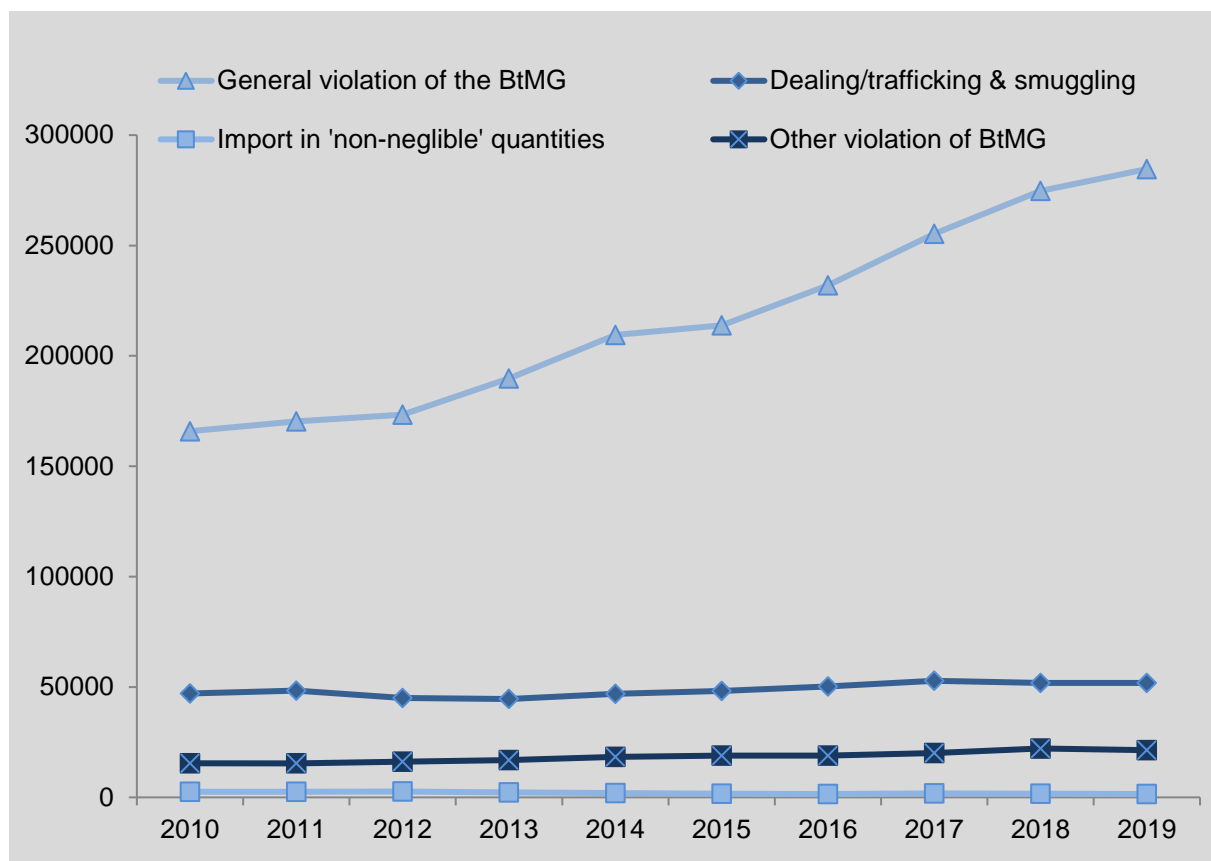
Figure 5 THC content of Cannabis 2010-2019 in per cent

## 2.2 Trends in other drug market data (T2.2)

There are currently no trends on other drug market data to report.

## 2.3 Short and long term trends in drug law offences (T2.3)

The trend in breaches of the law in connection with drugs since 2004 is illustrated in Figure 6. The most striking change can be seen in the general violations of the BtMG, which have risen steadily since 2012 (2018: 274,787 cases; 2019: 284,603).



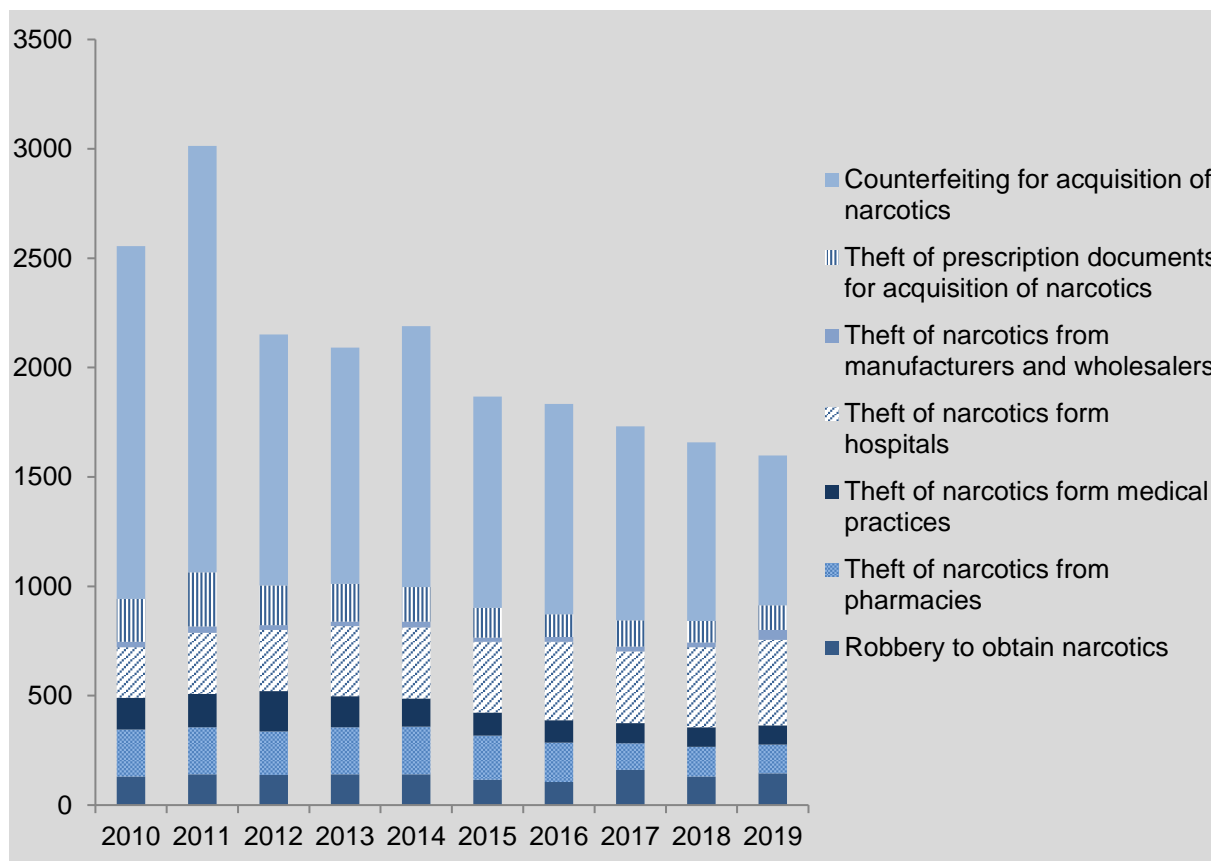
(Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), 2020)

Figure 6 Trend in narcotics offences 2010-2019

### Economic compulsive crime

The number of offences in the area of economic compulsive crime has fluctuated over the last 10 years (Figure 7) and, at 1,598 offences in 2019, is at a similarly low level to 2007 (1,507 offences), which was the lowest level since data started being collected in 2004 (the peak was in 2011, at 3,013 offences).

In the case of robbery for the purpose of acquiring narcotic drugs from pharmacies, 145 cases were recorded for 2019 which represented a +12% rise year on year. The theft of narcotic drugs from hospitals also saw, at 391 offences, an increase, by +7% from 2018 levels. 113 offences of theft of prescription forms in order to obtain narcotic drugs were recorded. This represented an increase of +14% compared to the previous year. The most marked increase was seen in the number of thefts of narcotic drugs from manufacturers and wholesalers. 46 such offences were recorded which represented an increase of +109%. The number of offences of theft of narcotic drugs from doctors' practices remained constant, at 88. In contrast, the numbers of offences of counterfeiting for the purpose of acquiring narcotic drugs fell in comparison to 2018 (684 offences; -16%). As far as theft of narcotic drugs from pharmacies was concerned, the figure fell by -4% to 131 offences.



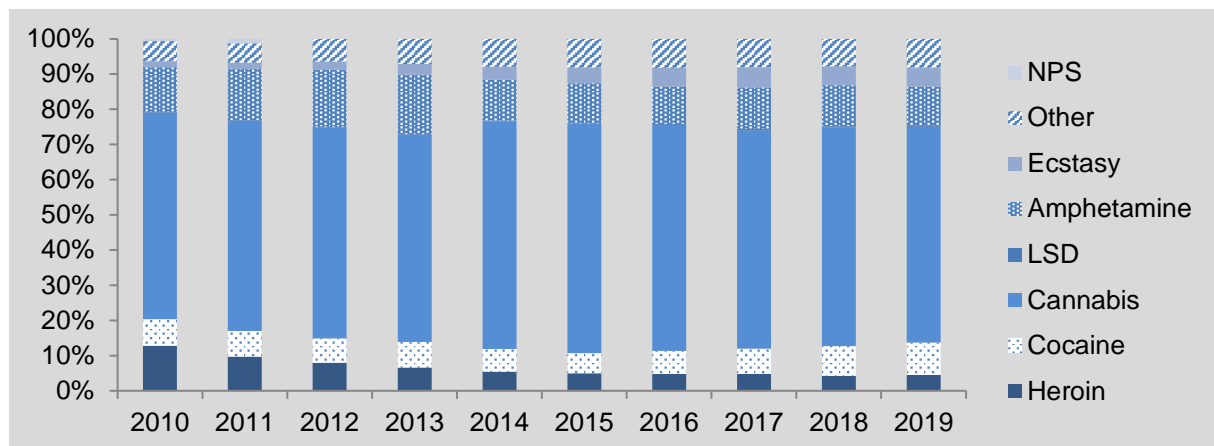
(Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), 2020)

Figure 7 Trend in economic compulsive crime 2010-2019

### 2.3.1 Dealing/trafficking offences

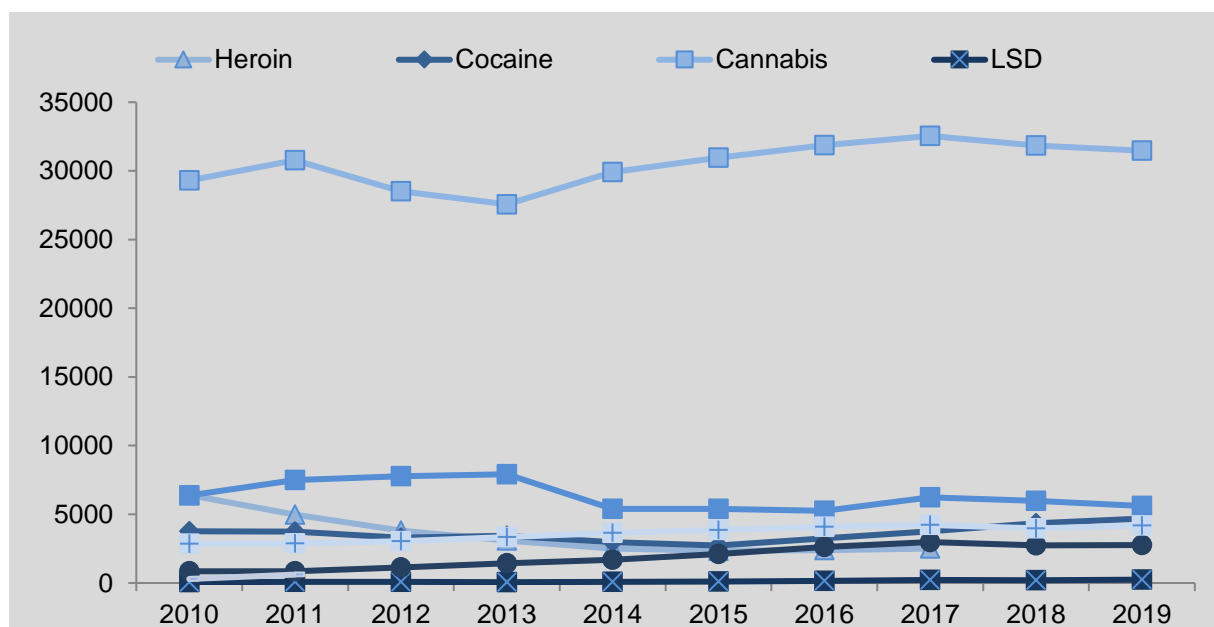
Cannabis has constantly played the largest role in recent years in dealing/trafficking, smuggling and import offences (59%; 2019: 31,474 offences), with numbers continuing to increase in recent years (2013: 27,570 offences) (Figure 8). The number of offences involving the dealing/trafficking and smuggling of heroin has fallen overall since 2010 (2010: 6,403 offences). However, it increased again compared to the previous year (2018: 2,180 individual offences, 2019: 2,329 offences), thus remaining, as far as the number of offences is concerned, behind cocaine, as in past years (2019: 4,692 offences, including crack). The number of dealing/trafficking and import offences in comparison to the previous year has increased both in relation to cocaine (+8.2%) and in relation to heroin (+6.8%) Dealing/trafficking offences in connection with ecstasy have fallen in the last two years, following a steady increase since 2011 and are now at a similar level to 2018 (2018: 2,779 offences; 2019: 2,772 offences). The number of dealing/trafficking, smuggling and import offences with amphetamine fell in 2019 compared to the previous year by 17.8% (2018: 2,204 offences, 1,812 offences). In 2019, 611 cases of NPS dealing/trafficking offences were recorded, which represents an increase of 108.5%.

The proportions of individual drugs in all cases of dealing/trafficking offences are presented in Figure 8, with absolute figures in Figure 9.



(Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), 2020)

Figure 8 Trend in dealing/trafficking and smuggling offences (2010-2019), proportions by drug



(Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), 2020)

Figure 9 Trend in dealing/trafficking offences (2010-2019), absolute figures

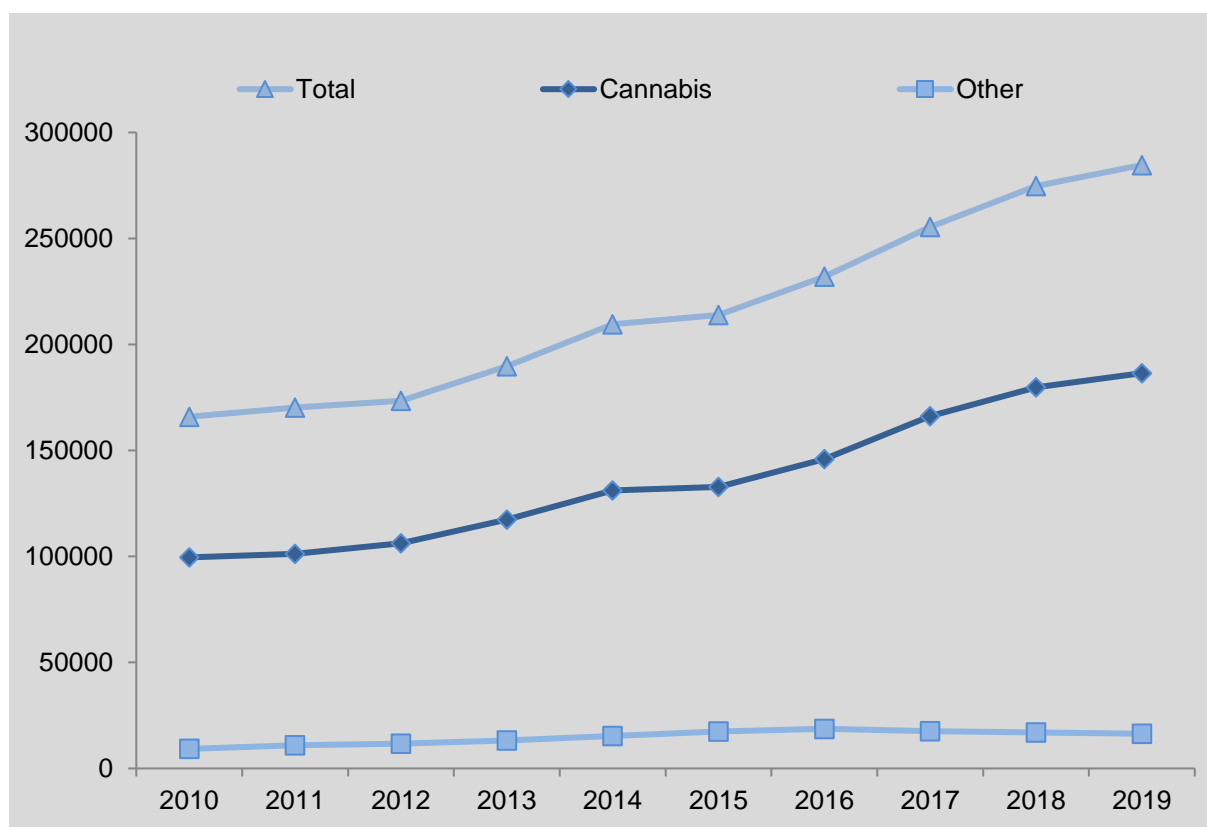
### 2.3.2 Consumption-related offences

In comparison to the previous year, the number of consumption-related offences has increased by 3.6% overall. In 2019 there were a total of 284,603 offences, with the increase of previous years (+36% compared to 2014) continuing. Cannabis continues to account for the largest proportion of consumption-related offences (65.5%), with an increase of 3.8% on the previous year. The proportions for NPS (+39.2%), cocaine (+9.5%), ecstasy (+4.4%), amphetamines (+4.0%) and heroin (+0.8%) also increased. The only number which fell was that for other narcotic drugs (-4.4%).

The short term trend over the last five years has, overall, been an increase in consumption-related offences by 35.8%. This can also be seen in the breakdown for the individual sub-

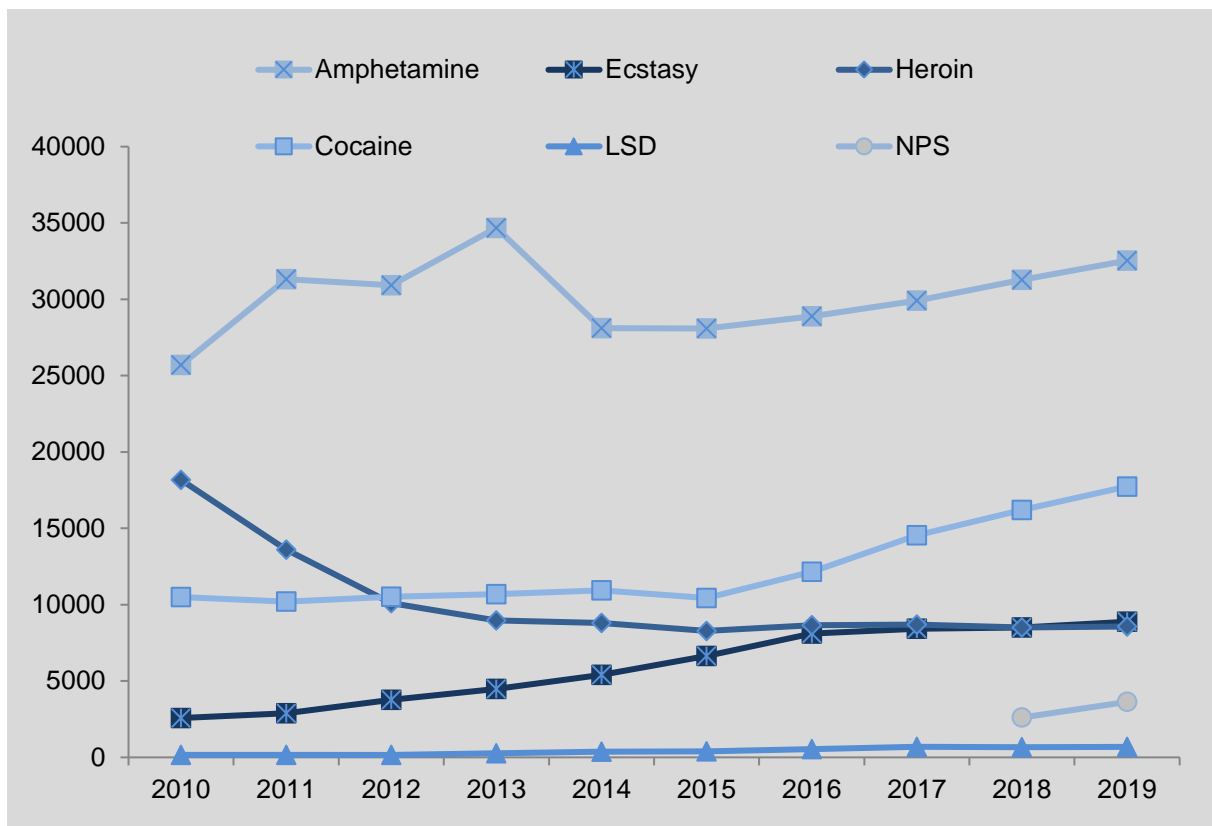
stances. An increase in offences has been recorded over the last five years for all consumption-related offences except for heroin (-2.7%). Of those increases, the largest were recorded for LSD (+82.8%), ecstasy (+64.3%) and cocaine (+62.3%). The figures for consumption-related offences with cannabis (+42.2%), amphetamines (+15.7%) and other substances (+6.8%) also increased over the last five years.

Over the last ten years, the numbers of consumption-related offences increased overall by 67.7%. This has been observed for all substances except heroin (-57.4%). The largest increases have been for LSD (+362.4%), ecstasy (+153.0%) and cannabis (+82.6%). The offences with other substances (+79.0%) also rose, as did the number of consumption-related offences with amphetamine (+45.3%) and cocaine (+44.0%).



(Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), 2020)

Figure 10 Trend in consumption-related offences in connection with cannabis and other narcotic drugs (2010-2019)



(Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), 2020)

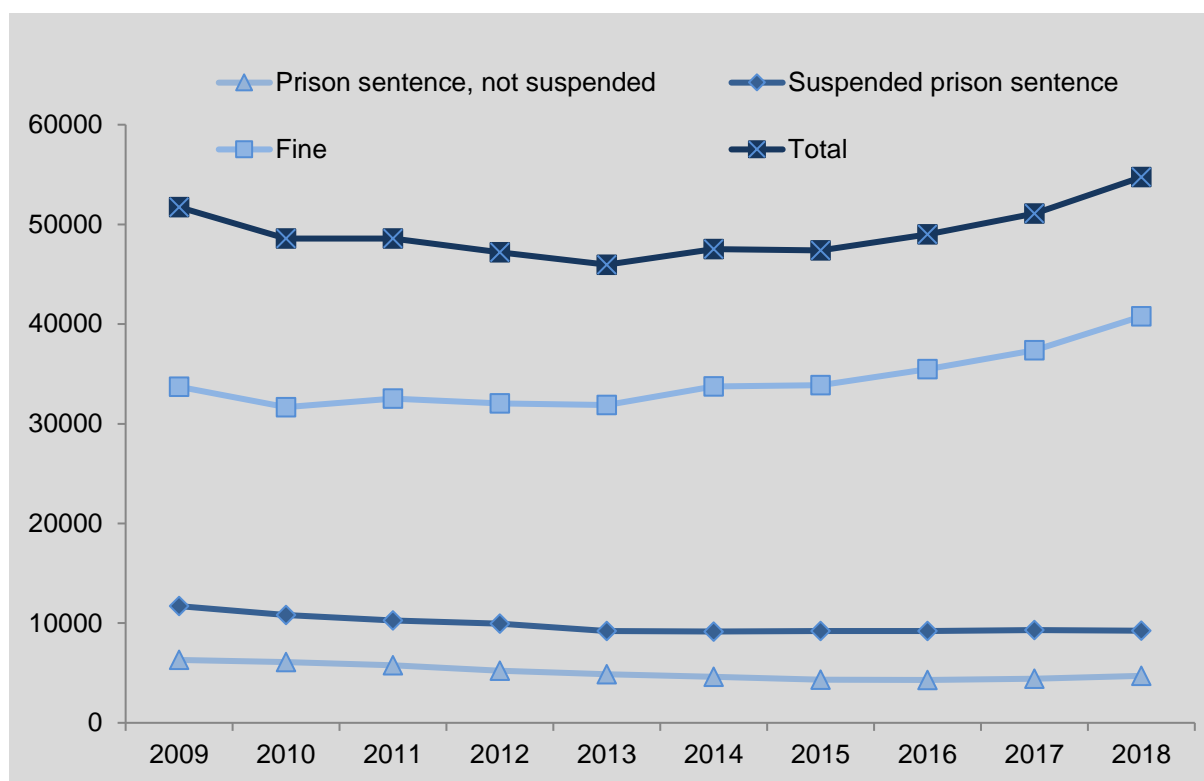
Figure 11 Trend in consumption-related offences in connection with other substances (2010-2019)

### 2.3.3 Users of hard drugs who have come to the attention of law enforcement for the first time (EKHD)

No information on users coming to the attention of law enforcement for the first time can be made from 2016 onwards due to the changes in data collection modalities in several *Laender* as described above. The presentation of the most up to date numbers which are known can be found in the 2016 Drug Market & Crime workbook (Schulte et al., 2016).

### 2.3.4 Convictions under the BtMG

Following hardly any change in 2014 (47,502 convictions) and 2015 (47,380 convictions) and increases in 2016 (48,983 convictions) and 2017 (51,073 convictions), the total number of persons convicted under the BtMG in 2018 once again increased, to 54,735. The trend in the number of convictions is illustrated in Figure 12.



(Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2020a)

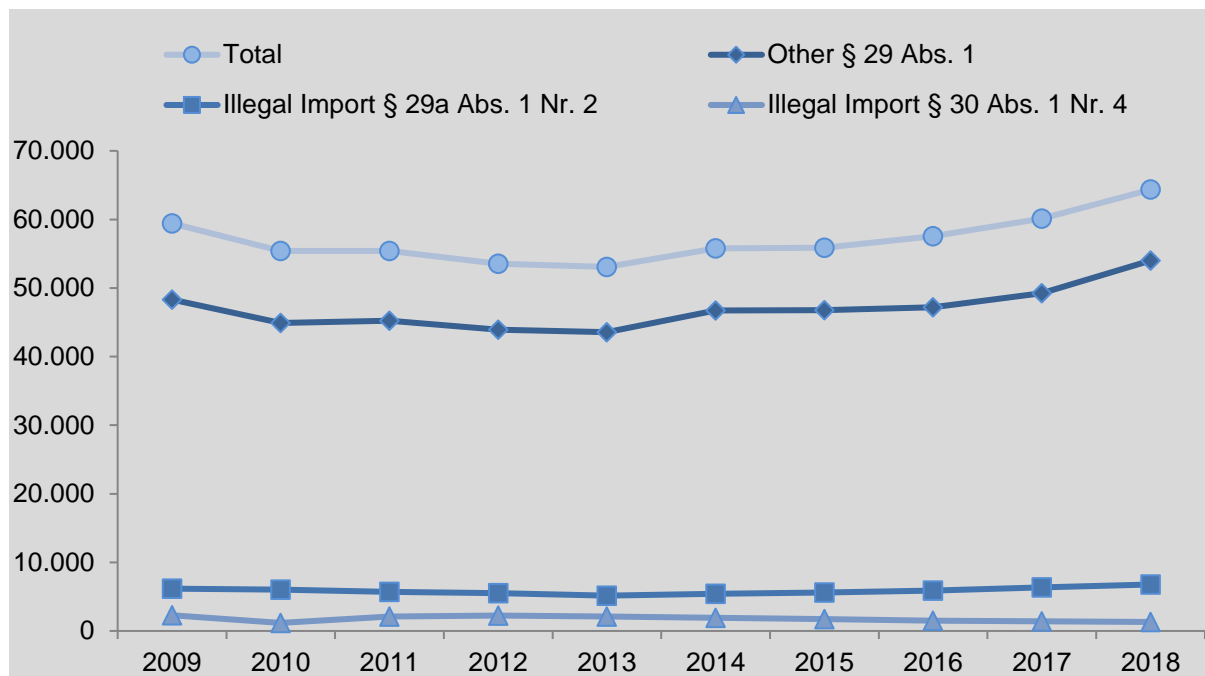
Figure 12 Trend in the number of convictions by type of sentence since 2009

A total of 54,735 convictions under the BtMG were recorded for 2018. Most of the sentences handed down were, as in previous years, fines (40,769 fines; 74.5%). Custodial sentences were for the most part suspended (9,243; 66.2% of all custodial sentences). The proportion of custodial sentences of all people convicted under the BtMG has greatly reduced overall in the last ten years (2018: 25.5%; 2005: 41.5% of all sentences). In this context, the proportion of non-suspended custodial sentences fell the sharpest (2005: 15.7%; 2018: 8.6% of all sentences). In contrast, fines have been steadily accounting for a greater share of sentences (2005: 58.4%; 2018: 74.5% of all sentences).

In a short-term comparison to the previous year, the total number of convictions under the BtMG increased by 6.6% (2017: 60,130 offences; 2018: 64,350 offences). Convictions for illegal dealing/trafficking, possession or manufacture in non-small quantities increased over the same period by 6.3% (2017: 6,373 offences; 2018: 6,771 offences), while the number of persons convicted for the illegal import of narcotic drugs in non-small amounts has fallen by 6% (2017: 1,405; 2018: 1,321).

Over the last 10 years, the distribution across the various types of offence has fluctuated to varying degrees depending on the offence (Figure 13). In the area of illegal import of narcotic drugs in non-small quantities (Sec. 30 (1) No. 4) a reduction of -45.2% has been seen compared to 2009 levels (2008: 2,412 offences; 2018: 1,321 offences). In the case of illegal dealing/trafficking, possession or manufacture of narcotic drugs in non-small quantities (Sec. 29a (1) No. 2), a new peak was reached in 2018, at 6,771 offences. In comparison to the

level ten years prior (2008: 6,375 offences), this represents an increase of +6.2%. The other violations falling under Sec. 29 (1) continue to account for the largest proportion of convictions under the BtMG and have increased, following a fall in numbers, to a new peak (54,008 offences). This represents an increase of +8.5% in comparison to 2008 (49,801 offences).



(Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2020a)

Figure 13 Convictions under the BtMG since 2009

## 2.4 Trends in other drug related crime data (T2.4)

### Traffic accidents

As far as traffic accidents with injury to persons registered by the police are concerned, the number of accidents involving drivers under the influence of alcohol had been on a downward trend from 2013 to 2018 but has been rising since then. In 2019, a slight rise of 0.2% was reported, to 13,475 cases (2018: 13,447 cases) (Table 6). This accounted for 3.8% of all accidents with injury to persons and thus a slightly smaller proportion than in the previous year (2018: 4.4%).

The total number of vehicle drivers under the influence of other intoxicating substances increased again in 2019, to 2,386 cases (+99 cases compared to previous year), however, as in previous years, they continue to make up only 0.8% (2018: 0.7%) of all drivers involved in accidents (Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2020b). In that context, "other intoxicating substances" refers to those with a psychoactive effect which impair the intellectual and motor skills as well as inhibition capacity. Generally, medicinal drugs do not fall under other intoxicating substances within the meaning of Sec. 316 German Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch, StGB).



Table 6 Drug use and road traffic accidents, human causes

|      | Accidents with injuries to persons | Incorrect driving behaviour | Drivers under the influence of alcohol | Drivers under the influence of other intoxicating substances |
|------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 2006 | 327,984                            | 403,886                     | 19,405                                 | 1,320  |
| 2007 | 335,845                            | 410,496                     | 19,456                                 | 1,356  |
| 2008 | 320,641                            | 388,181                     | 18,383                                 | 1,440  |
| 2009 | 310,806                            | 377,733                     | 16,513                                 | 1,281  |
| 2010 | 288,297                            | 350,323                     | 14,237                                 | 1,151  |
| 2011 | 306,266                            | 371,821                     | 15,114                                 | 1,392  |
| 2012 | 299,637                            | 362,993                     | 14,380                                 | 1,393  |
| 2013 | 291,105                            | 350,381                     | 13,327                                 | 1,350  |
| 2014 | 302,435                            | 361,935                     | 13,011                                 | 1,509  |
| 2015 | 305,659                            | 366,448                     | 12,660                                 | 1,641  |
| 2016 | 308,145                            | 369,242                     | 12,875                                 | 1,809  |
| 2017 | 302,656                            | 360,736                     | 12,873                                 | 1,961  |
| 2018 | 308,553                            | 368,305                     | 13,447                                 | 2,287  |
| 2019 | 300,006                            | 368,559                     | 13,475                                 | 2,386  |

(Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2020b)

### 3 NEW DEVELOPMENTS (T3)

#### 3.1 New developments (T3.1)

In order to be able to tackle NPS better, the BMG has created a stand-alone law, in the NpSG, with a new approach to combat the distribution of NPS. This Act came into force on 26 November 2016. Since the 2019 report on the topic of Drug Market and Crime (Schneider et al., 2019), data regarding NPS has been added to the workbook Drug Market and Crime.

## 4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (T4)

### 4.1 Additional sources of information (T4.1)

In a qualitative study with 40 interviews, Egger and Werse analysed three different types of profit-oriented small dealers in greater Frankfurt am Main. The three groups were:

- Socially inconspicuous experienced persons (private dealers),
- People who deal within the “open drug scene” of marginalised drug users and
- Respondents who i.a. deal cannabis in public (but outside the “hard drug scene”).

The latter two groups clearly differ on a socio-demographic level from private dealers and have less favourable starting points. This also applies both for the drugs and the quantities dealt and the profits earned: street dealers and marginalised dealers achieve much higher profits on average than the socially inconspicuous dealers. In contrast, it is not only private dealers who sell to people they know: the other respondents also mainly sell only to people known to them. Across all groups, funding own use is the most common motive for dealing in drugs (Egger und Werse, 2017).

## 5 SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY (T5)

### 5.1 Sources (T5.1)

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- Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis) (2020b). Verkehr. Zeitreihen. 2019. Fachserie 8, Reihe 7, Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), Wiesbaden.

### 5.2 Methodology (T5.2)

#### German Federal Statistical Office

##### *Administration of justice*

The German Federal Statistical Office's data collection is ordered by the *Laender* justice administrations for the reporting offices. There is no legal basis at an EU or national German level for the criminal prosecution statistical report. Its introduction and implementation is based on standardised federal administrative orders of the *Laender*. The German Federal Statistical Office compiles the results from the *Laender* prosecution statistics to create national results. The administrative data of the law enforcement authorities, on which the

prosecution statistics are based, is extracted from the court files following the final rulings in criminal proceedings or summary proceedings and generally sent to the relevant *Land* statistical office at the end of each month.

The criminal prosecution statistical reports are a comprehensive record incorporating all data collected by the reporting offices. Therefore, no estimates need to be made as to missing data or missing reporting offices.

### ***Traffic accidents***

The legal basis for the collating of the available results is the "German Act on the Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents" (Gesetz über die Statistik der Straßenverkehrsunfälle, StVUnfStatG) of 15 June 1990 (Federal Law Gazette I 1990 pp. 1078 et seqq.), most recently amended by the First Act Amending the Road Traffic Accident Statistics Act (Erstes Gesetz zur Änderung des Straßenverkehrsunfallstatistikgesetzes) of 23 November 1994 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 3491) as well as the German Ordinance on the Precise Definition of Serious Accidents Involving Material Damage within the meaning of the Road Traffic Accident Statistics Act (Verordnung zur näheren Bestimmung des schwerwiegenden Unfalls mit Sachschaden im Sinne des Straßenverkehrsunfallstatistikgesetzes) of 21 December 1994 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 3970) most recently amended by Art. 3 of the German Ordinance Amending the Annex to Sec. 24a of the German Road Traffic Act and other Rules (Verordnung zur Änderung der Anlage zu § 24a des Straßenverkehrsgesetzes und anderer Vorschriften) of 6 June 2007 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1047).

According to those laws, federal statistics are produced on accidents causing death or injury to persons or damage to property due to vehicle traffic on public roads and spaces.

It is the responsibility of the police stations whose officers recorded the accident to report the information. Consequently, statistics are only included for those accidents which the police attend. The basis for the road traffic accident statistics is the information on traffic accident reports supplied on data storage media as well as the reports on any accidents involving damage to property, which under the law are only recorded in terms of numbers by location.

### **German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA)**

The BKA produces the Federal Situation Report on Narcotics (Bundeslagebild Rauschgift), an annual summary of current police knowledge of the situation and trend in narcotics drugs crime in Germany.

Moreover, the BKA publishes the police crime statistics (Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik, PKS) annually, in which the individual elements of criminal acts are presented according to coded keys. From this, the DBDD calculates the individual criminal acts for different substances.

## 6 TABLES

|         |  |    |
|---------|--|----|
| Table 1 | Prices of various drugs in small and large quantities (€/kg), 2019 .....                       | 9  |
| Table 2 | Street-level prices of various drugs (€/g), 2019 .....   | 9  |
| Table 3 | Trend in average narcotics prices at street-level dealing (€/g).....                           | 20 |
| Table 4 | Trend in average wholesale narcotics prices (€/kg) (0.5 to <1.5 kg or 500 to <1,500 CU).....   | 21 |
| Table 5 | Trend in average wholesale narcotics prices (€/kg) (1.5 to <10 kg or 1,500 to <10,000 CU)..... | 21 |
| Table 6 | Drug use and road traffic accidents, human causes .....  | 32 |

## 7 FIGURES

|           |  |    |
|-----------|--|----|
| Figure 1  | Proportion of convictions for narcotics among different groups of offenders 2010-2018 .....                  | 15 |
| Figure 2  | Number of seized narcotics laboratories 2010-2019 .....  | 18 |
| Figure 3  | Purity of heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and methamphetamine 2010-2019 in per cent .....                       | 23 |
| Figure 4  | Purity of MDMA 2010-2019 in mg/tablet.....   | 23 |
| Figure 5  | THC content of Cannabis 2010-2019 in per cent.....   | 24 |
| Figure 6  | Trend in narcotics offences 2010-2019 .....  | 25 |
| Figure 7  | Trend in economic compulsive crime 2010-2019 .....   | 26 |
| Figure 8  | Trend in dealing/trafficking and smuggling offences (2010-2019), proportions by drug .....                   | 27 |
| Figure 9  | Trend in dealing/trafficking offences (2010-2019), absolute figures.....                                     | 27 |
| Figure 10 | Trend in consumption-related offences in connection with cannabis and other narcotic drugs (2010-2019) ..... | 28 |
| Figure 11 | Trend in consumption-related offences in connection with other substances (2010-2019) .....                  | 29 |
| Figure 12 | Trend in the number of convictions by type of sentence since 2009.....                                       | 30 |
| Figure 13 | Convictions under the BtMG since 2009 .....  | 31 |